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Date 12th Jun '14 NO.

To: Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Mr. Wheeler,

My name is Mudit Sharma, and I am a student at Purdue University in Indiana. I am 20 years old, and I am not an American citizen. I am an Indian citizen, but I am a stakeholder in the issue at hand. I wrote to you an e-mail previously, but you probably didn't get a chance to go through it. However, I am simply asking for around 5 minutes of your time. This issue is relevant and I ask you to atleast know of my point of view. The issue that I am writing about is widely known as Net Neutrality.

As you probably know, the United Nations has declared internet access a basic human right. It is no law (yet) but I believe that governments, by their very nature, are obliged to not infringe on those rights by favouring the rich and the powerful, or, by extension creating artificial tiers which may be detrimental and unfair to those who will be left behind by them

not being able to afford a high tier, which includes, possibly, small businesses as well as self-employed persons. In the long run, effectively, America will have effectively turned into an oligarchy if Net Neutrality is abolished. Discrimination is hardly ever a good thing, but when it divides what is now ubiquitously used and unimaginably important, an integral part of our lives (so much so that is now considered a basic human right), it is outrageous, shameful, and morally and ethically treasonous. There exist very few entities who would benefit from the abolishment of

Time-Warner and the like. Those firms who would presumably utilise the higher and faster tier such as Netflix and Facebook, both of which are mere assumptions on my part for the sake of argument would simply be able to provide faster service, to nobody's (except the carriers') eventual benefit because their service(s) so far are speedy enough on the existing networks.

In addition, since private firms are inherently profit-oriented, it is reasonable to assume that these carriers will provide better service to these large-data companies at the expense of the lower tier. This activity, as of yet, is definitely unregulated as evidenced by the recent revelations of, say, Netflix's download speeds on Verizon's network as Verizon was pushing (or attempting to, rather) Netflix towards actions it would prefer Netflix to take. In addition, certain elements exist within the industry which would/appear to point towards a disturbing amount of monopolistic competition, especially the lack of mutual region availability of Verizon and Time-Warner which was recently brought to my attention. When one considers that in the face of the fact that Verizon and Time-Warner are set to effectively merge, they seem to satisfy an alarming amount of conditions in order to be considered a monopoly. When Google and Yahoo have unprecedentedly joined hands to ask regulators to block the acquisition, and a 20 year old undergraduate can see what monstrous wrong is about to happen, I think it speaks a lot about the departments and people who not only stood by and let it happen, but actively endorsed, even if it was not for personal gain. In either case, it points to corruption, negligence, incompetence, and a host of other problems with any system whose participants would condone this.

If Net Neutrality were indeed abolished, it would not only reduce (at the very least) competition in the telecommunications industry, but also in the e-retail industry. It is admittedly a mere facet of the widespread implications abolishing Net Neutrality will create, but I

presence of comparatively longer issues. And, in any case, the butterfly effect of abolishing Net Neutrality should definitely be considered. Retailers that can't afford to or don't find it ethical to use the faster tier will suffer, indicating that abolishing Net Neutrality will severely cripple competition, innovation, and consumer choice in the telecommunications industry (the Verizon & Time Warner merger will simply be the final nail in the coffin) AS WELL AS in the free market with many, many other industries. Personally, I think it unconstitutional to deny choice the people within the United States and instead knowingly increase prices (as will inevitably happen), reduce competition, choice, and innovation in one swift stroke that you will be nearly completely held responsible for.

I realize that transitioning from the telecommunications lobbying arm to the office that you currently occupy is a drastic change given that you are now tasked with regulating and improving the industry that you and your ex-colleagues have been trying to change for quite some time, but I would urge you to realize the gravity of that transition. The internet is an exceptionally powerful tool, and to alter it would affect literally billions. Your responsibilities now lie to the people within the United States of America, and serving them is now your chief duty. Telecommunications corporations wouldn't finch if you robbed each and every one of us and divided it up amongst them, but it is your duty to ensure that the right balance between the private sector and the public sector is maintained. The policy that the FCC is so readily poised to inculcate will, as mentioned before, have far-reaching implications in a vast number of industries, and ONLY the ISPs stand to gain from it, which is, for all intents and purposes, an exceptionally poor idea, given that violates the few most precious and basic tenets of government and economy.

As a parting note, I wish to suggest a few ideas that may help

even considering abolishing Net Neutrality? I recently read that the FCC was planning on raising the bar for the minimum speed or bandwidth required for an internet connection to be considered a broadband connection. If this speed were to be raised to whatever speed the fast-lane of the proposed post-Net-Neutrality was going to be, it would solve problems. It would be unfair to directly impose this on ISP's so it might perhaps be carried out over the course of a few months, perhaps. Another option may be to increase regulation of ISP's, ensuring that they not allowed to do what Comcast and Verizon tried with Netflix. For reasons such as this, and for others I have hopefully addressed satisfactorily, I hope you see that the Internet should be reclassified as a common carrier and that ISP's should, to the best of your ability, be reminded that they are charged with providing internet access to consumers to the very best of their ability and that they shouldn't be allowed to regulate it as whimsically as they have been. When providers charged with ensuring access to a basic human right start whimsically abusing it without any repercussions) and then self-righteously send out cease and desist notices to those that expose them, it is indicative of glaring loopholes in the regulations of the only regulatory agency tasked with doing anything about it. Oversight is not the boon of the FCC, and nor is it an arrow in the FCC's quiver, it is also something the FCC is tasked with exercising on itself. The FCC, Mr. Wheeler, is not infallible. People will demand answers from the FCC, and you will, as its chairman, have to answer them.

↪ P.T.O

I believe, Mr. Wheeler, that I have made my point.

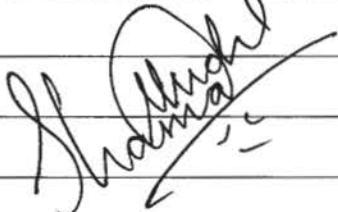
I am not aware of how your office treats materials such as this with respect to rights and permissions and the like, so I would simply like to state that I give your office permission to reproduce and distribute this letter. All I ask is that you do so in its entirety, if at all you would do so.

Please feel free to contact me at "muditsharma93@gmail.com" for clarifications, responses, or anything else.

I thank you generously for your time and your attention.

Regards,

Mudit Sharma

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mudit Sharma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mudit" on top and "Sharma" below it, both starting with a capital letter.

Date

NO.